



PTO/SB/08a/b (07-05)

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO

Complete If Known

				Application Number	10/709,019-Conf. #3018
				Filing Date	April 7, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Nam T. Chao
				Art Unit	3733
				Examiner Name	A. Reimers
Sheet	1	of	5	Attorney Docket Number	101896-0245

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY		
AK	AA*	US-20020169448-A1	11-14-2002	Vanacker	
	AB*	US-2004006342-A1	01-08-2004	Altarac et al.	
	AC*	US-20040049188-A1	03-11-2004	Silvka et al.	
	AD*	US-20040087949-A1	05-06-2004	Bono et al.	
	AE*	US-20050228377-A1	10-13-2005	Chao et al.	
	AF	US-596,729	01/1898	White	
	AG*	US-1,455,441	05/1923	LA Hodny William	
	AH*	US-3,019,504	02/1962	Castagliuolo	
	AI*	US-3,752,203	08-14-1973	Hill, Jr.	
	AJ*	US-4,085,744	04-25-1978	Lewis et al.	
	AK*	US-4,289,124	09-15-1981	Zickel	
	AL*	US-4,411,259	10-25-1983	Drummond	
	AM*	US-4,611,581	09-16-1986	Steffee	
	AN*	US-4,648,388	03-10-1987	Steffee	
	AO*	US-4,655,199	04-07-1987	Steffee	
	AP*	US-4,696,290	09-29-1987	Steffee	
	AQ*	US-4,763,644	08-16-1988	Webb	
	AR*	US-4,773,402	09-27-1988	Asher et al.	
	AS*	US-4,815,453	03-28-1989	Cotrel	
	AT*	US-4,913,134	04-03-1990	Luque	
	AU*	US-4,957,495	09-18-1990	Kluger	
	AV*	US-5,005,562	04-09-1991	Cotrel	
	AW*	US-5,024,213	06-18-1991	Asher et al.	
	AX*	US-5,067,955	11-26-1991	Cotrel	
	AY*	US-5,092,893	03-03-1992	Smith	
	AZ*	US-5,113,685	05-19-1992	Asher et al.	
	AA1*	US-5,120,171	06-09-1992	Lasner	
	AB1*	US-5,129,900	07-14-1992	Asher et al.	
	AC1*	US-5,147,359	09-15-1992	Cozad et al.	
	AD1*	US-5,154,718	10-13-1992	Cozad et al.	
	AE1*	US-5,176,680	01-05-1993	Vignaud et al.	
	AF1*	US-5,207,678	05-04-1993	Harms et al.	
	AG1*	US-5,242,443	09-07-1993	Kambin	
	AH1*	US-5,261,913	11-16-1993	Marnay	
	AI1*	US-5,282,801	02-01-1994	Sherman	
	AJ1*	US-5,306,275	04-26-1994	Bryan	
	AK1*	US-5,360,431	11-01-1994	Puno et al.	
	AL1*	US-5,395,370	03-07-1995	Muller et al.	
	AM1*	US-5,454,812	10-03-1995	Lin	
	AN1*	US-5,476,462	12-19-1995	Allard et al.	
	AO1*	US-5,496,321	03-05-1996	Puno et al.	
	AP1*	US-5,514,132	05-07-1996	Csematony et al.	
	AQ1*	US-5,527,314	06-18-1996	Brumfield et al.	
	AR1*	US-5,534,002	07-09-1996	Brumfield et al.	
	AS1*	US-5,562,662	10-08-1996	Brumfield et al.	

Examiner Signature	<i>Amber Reimers</i>	Date Considered	5/13/06
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2 of 5				Complete If Known
				Application Number 10/709,019-Conf. #3018
				Filing Date April 7, 2004
				First Named Inventor Nam T. Chao
				Art Unit 3733
				Examiner Name A. Reimers
				Attorney Docket Number 101896-0245

AM	AT1*	US-5,586,983	12-24-1996	Sanders et al.
	AU1*	US-5,601,552	02-11-1997	Cotrel
	AV1*	US-5,616,142	04-01-1997	Yuan et al.
	AW1	US-5,624,442	04-29-1997	Mellinger et al.
	AX1*	US-5,651,789	07-29-1997	Cotrel
	AY1*	US-5,669,910	09-23-1997	Korhonen et al.
	AZ1*	US-5,700,292	12-23-1997	Margulies
	AA2*	US-5,707,372	01-13-1998	Errico et al.
	AB2*	US-5,709,685	01-20-1998	Dombrowski et al.
	AC2*	US-5,743,907	04-28-1998	Asher et al.
	AD2*	US-5,752,955	05-19-1998	Errico
	AE2*	US-5,885,284	03-23-1999	Errico et al.
	AF2*	US-5,928,232	07-27-1999	Howland et al.
	AG2*	US-5,989,250	11-23-1999	Wagner et al.
	AH2*	US-6,063,089	05-16-2000	JOSEPH ERRICO
	AI2*	US-6,126,660	10-03-2000	Dietz
	AJ2*	US-6,139,548	10-31-2000	Errico
	AK2*	US-6,273,888-A1	08-14-2001	Justis
	AL2*	US-6,287,309	09-11-2001	Baccelli et al.
	AM2*	US-6,315,779	11-13-2001	Morrison et al.
	AN2*	US-6,554,832-A1	04-29-2003	Shluzas
	AO2*	US-6,641,583-A1	10-03-2002	Shluzas et al.
	AP2*	US-6,958,066-A1	08-14-2003	Richelsoph et al.
	AQ2*	US-6,689,133	02-28-2002	Matthew Morrison
	AR2*	US-6,283,967	09-04-2001	Troxell et al.
	AS2*	US-6,234,705	05-22-2001	Troxell
	AT2*	US-6,136,003	10-24-2000	Hoeck et al.
	AU2*	US-6,113,600	09-05-2000	Drummond et al.
	AV2*	US-6,083,226	07-04-2000	Fiz
	AW2*	US-5,947,966	09-07-1999	Drewry et al.
	AX2*	US-5,899,903	05-04-1999	Cotrel
	AY2*	US-5,776,135	07-07-1998	Errico et al.
	AZ2*	US-5,743,911	04-28-1998	Cotrel
	AA3*	US-5,716,355	02-10-1998	Jackson et al.
	AB3*	US-5,709,684	01-20-1998	Errico et al.
	AC3*	US-5,704,936	01-06-1998	Mazel
	AD3*	US-5,667,507	09-16-1997	Corin et al.
	AE3*	US-5,662,853	09-02-1997	Hattori et al.
	AF3*	US-5,630,816	05-20-1997	Kambin
	AG3*	US-5,620,444	04-15-1997	Assaker
	AH3*	US-5,609,592	03-11-1997	Brumfield et al.
	AI3*	US-5,591,165	01-07-1997	Jackson
	AJ3*	US-5,562,663	10-08-1996	Wisnewski et al.
	AK3*	US-5,549,607	08-27-1996	Olson et al.
	AL3*	US-5,531,745	07-02-1996	Ray
	AM3*	US-5,522,816	06-04-1996	Dinello et al.
	AN3*	US-5,487,742	01-30-1996	Cotrel

Examiner Signature	<i>Amber Reimers</i>	Date Considered	5/13/06
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Sheet	3	of	5
Attorney Docket Number 101896-0245			

AU	AO3*	US-5,470,333	11-28-1995	Ray
	AP3*	US-5,439,463	08-08-1995	Lin
	AQ3*	US-5,423,818	06-13-1995	Van Hoeck et al.
	AR3*	US-5,403,316	04-04-1995	Ashman
	AS3*	US-5,368,594	11-29-1994	Martin et al.
	AT3*	US-5,334,203	08-02-1994	Wagner
	AU3*	US-5,312,405	05-17-1994	Korotko et al.
	AV3*	US-5,275,600	01-04-1994	Allard et al.
	AW3	US-5,234,431	08-10-1993	Keller
	AX3*	US-5,190,543	03-02-1993	Schlapfer
	AY3*	US-5,176,678	01-05-1993	Tsou
	AZ3*	US-5,147,360	09-15-1992	Dubousset
	AA4*	US-5,133,716	07-28-1992	Plaza
	AB4*	US-5,127,912	07-07-1992	Ray et al.
	AC4*	US-5,116,334	05-26-1992	Cozad et al.
	AD4*	US-5,102,412	04-07-1992	Rogozinski
	AE4*	US-5,030,220	07-09-1991	Howland
	AF4*	US-5,010,879	04-30-1991	Moriya et al.
	AG4*	US-5,002,542	03-26-1991	ROBERT FRIGG
	AH4*	US-4,950,269	08-21-1990	Gaines, Jr.
	AI4*	US-4,887,595	12-19-1989	Heinig et al.
	AJ4*	US-4,805,602	02-21-1989	Puno et al.
	AK4*	US-4,771,767	09-20-1988	ARTHUR D. STEFFEE
	AL4*	US-4,719,905	01-19-1988	Steffee
	AM4*	US-4,658,809	04-21-1987	Ulrich et al.
	AN4*	US-4,653,481	03-31-1987	Howland et al.
	AO4*	US-4,641,636	02-10-1987	Cotrel
	AP4*	US-4,611,580	09-16-1986	Wu
	AQ4*	US-4,404,967	09-20-1983	Bacal et al.
	AR4*	US-4,179,905	12-25-1979	Schultenkamper
	AS4*	US-4,011,602	03-15-1977	Rybicki et al.
	AT4*	US-3,499,222	03/1970	Linkow et al.
	AU4*	US-2,638,301	05-12-1953	Smith
	AV4	US-900,717	10/1908	Feaster
	AW4	US-483,342	09/1892	Bolte
	AX4	US-180,881	08/1876	Howson
	AY4*	US-20050228326-A1	10-13-2005	Kalfas et al.
	AZ4*	US-20040039385	02-26-2004	Keyvan Mazda
	AA5*	US-20030045874-A1	03-06-2003	Thomas
	AB5*	US-20020111625-A1	08-15-2002	Richelsoph et al.
	AC5*	US-4,611,582	09-16-1986	Duff
	AD5*	US-20050090821-A1	04-28-2005	Berrevoets et al.

Examiner Signature	<i>Nam T. Chao</i>	Date Considered	<i>5/13/06</i>
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				First Named Inventor	Nam T. Chao
				Art Unit	3733
				Examiner Name	A. Reimers
Sheet	4	of	5	Attorney Docket Number	101896-0245

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ² -Number ³ -Kind Code ⁴ (# known)			
AK	BA	EP-0820722	01-28-1998	Societe Etudes et Developpements	
	BB	FR-2,697,743	05-13-1994	Fabrication Material Orthopediques	✓
	BC	JP-2000-033091	02-02-2000	Solco Surgical Instrument Co.	
	BD	WO-91/16020	10-24-1991	Johnson Service Co.	
	BE	EP-0956829	11-17-1999	Howmedica GmbH	
	BF	EP-0878170	11-18-1998	Surgical Dynamics, Inc.	✓
	BG	FR-2,645,427	10-12-1990	Cotrel Yves	✓
	BH	EP-0242708	10-28-1987	Harms Jurgen	
	BI	DE-3639810	05-26-1988	Ulrich Heinrich	✓
	BJ	SU-286136	11/1970		
	BK	JP-11-244299	09-14-1999	Robert Reed Shokai	
	BL	SU-1823791	06/1993		
	BM	DE-867422	02-16-1953	Dr. Abel Alfred	✓
	BN	GB-2173104	10-08-1986	Peter John Webb	
	BO	FR-2,816,195		Taylor et al. w/English abstract	
	BP	FR-2,795,622	01-01-2005	Gerard Vanacker	✓
	BQ	WO-90/04948	05-17-1990	Surgicapt Ltd.	
	BR	WO-00/57801	10-05-2000	Surgical Dynamics, Inc.	
	BS	DE-3219575	12-01-1983	Patrick Kluger	✓
	BT	DE-4330837	03-16-1995	Michael Hahn	✓
	BU	WO-95/13754	05-26-1995	Cross Medical Products Inc.	
	BV	GB-2208476	04-05-1989	Mehdian Seved Mohammed	
	BW	FR-2,624,720	06/1989	Fabrication Materiel Orthopedi	
	BX	WO-00/59387	10-12-2000	Synthes AG (CH)	
	BY	WO-87/00160	01-15-1987	Svenka Utvecklings AB	
	BZ	GB-167228	07-26-1921	Stanley Watkin Darker	✓
	BA1	EP-0128058	12-12-1984	Cotrel	
	BB1	WO-01/24718	04-12-2001	Blackstone Medical	
✓	BC1	FR-2,714,590	07-07-1995	Jean Pierre Lenfant	✓
	BD1	WO-01/01872	01-11-2001	Vanacker, Gerard	✓
AK	BE1	EP-0956829	11-17-1999	Howmedica GmbH	✓

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. *CITE NO.: Those application(s) which are marked with an single asterisk (*) next to the Cite No. are not supplied (under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(iii)) because that application was filed after June 30, 2003 or is available in the IFW. *Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 601.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature	<i>Amelia Fawcett</i>	Date Considered	5/13/06
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				Art Unit	3733
				Examiner Name	A. Reimers
Sheet	5	of	5	Attorney Docket Number	101896-0245

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			²
AN	CA	Asher, et al., "A Modular Spinal Rod Linkage System to Provide Rotational Stability", SPINE, Volume 13, Number 3, pages 272-277, 1998			
	CB	Carson et al., "Internal Forces and Moments in Transpecular Spine Instrumentation", SPINE, Volume 15, Number 9, pages 893-901			
	CC	Martin H. Krag, "Biomechanics of Thoracolumbar Spinal Fixation," SPINE, Volume 16, Number 3, Supplement, pages S84-S99 (1991)			
YL	CD	Lim, et al., "Biomechanics of Transfixation in Pedicle Screw Instrumentation", SPINE, Volume 21, Number 19, pages 2224-2229, 1996			
KY	CE	Bick et al., "Mechanical Evaluation of Cross-Link Designs in Rigid Pedicle Screw Systems", SPINE, Volume 22, Number 4, pages 370-375, 1997.			

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¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Examiner Signature	<i>Leanne Lewis</i>	Date Considered	5/13/06
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